

A. Duties:

Serves as a Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO) with state or area wide epidemiology responsibility for the control and eradication of domestic and exotic diseases of livestock, poultry, and/or other species. Assignments involve (a) establishing and recommending area wide emergency disease control and eradication policies and programs; (b) coordinating and conducting epidemiological studies of the diseases of livestock, poultry, and other species; and (c) developing and recommending new and improved methods and procedures for obtaining and analyzing pertinent information related to factors which cause the spread of diseases. The Veterinary Medical Officer:

- establishes and recommends area wide animal disease control and eradication policies and programs among the various epidemiological or related activities in the state or area.

- provides authoritative veterinary medical expertise on the uniform and accurate application of national standards for the detection, diagnosis, and disposition of disease problems of animals or birds.

- forecasts anticipated levels and location of disease incidences and provides assistance in establishing immediate and long range budget and work plans accordingly.

- reviews area epidemiological activities to determine their successes in disease eradication or control of their failures due to inhibiting state laws, regulations, and related instructions which may require modifications in cooperative State-Federal agreements.

- reviews area activities with the Regional Epidemiologist in terms of coordinating action with nearby states and in cooperating on the most difficult, unusual, or controversial cases.

- meets with industry groups to promote compliance with technical requirements of new or modified disease eradication and control programs.

- alerts Area Veterinarian in Charge, as well as Regional personnel, of disease trends among livestock, poultry, or other species and potential problems which may impact on the program, industry, and public health.

- monitors, evaluates, and provides direction and guidance to laboratory support programs and personnel.

B. Factors:

1. Knowledge Required by the Position FL 1-7 , 1250 points

Professional knowledge of veterinary medical science concepts, principles, and practices is required in a major disease field in which the veterinarian has responsibility for the development and coordination of scientific studies, field trials, laboratory analyses, and general competency evaluations, in lieu of ineffective, ordinary eradication procedures, to insure immediate isolation and elimination of the cause for the persistent disease threatening the economy and health of the animal industry. This includes the following:

- a. Knowledge of advances in the veterinary medical science field to propose, adopt, or modify disease program administration rules and regulations, inspection procedures, and professional materials.
- b. Knowledge of related veterinary medical sciences such as epidemiology, immunology, serology, microbiology, pathology, parasitology, toxicology, and other sciences, including their statistical data for a scientific analysis of the potential impact of the disease process on farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, and the environment within the area.

2. Supervisory Controls BMK 13-04, 450 points

The supervisor establishes the broad goals of the epidemiological assignment and program authority. The veterinarian and the supervisor consult on major activities and priorities of immediate and long range disease incidences, budgets, and work plans. The veterinarian independently coordinates and conducts epidemiological studies, develops and recommends new and improved procedures for obtaining and analyzing factors causing the spread of diseases, provides authoritative expertise on effective epidemiological surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities, and alerts the supervisor and others of disease trends and potential problems with farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, or the environment. Accomplishments and written reports are reviewed in broad program terms and on the basis of results in reducing, controlling, or eradicating incidences of various persistent diseases from animals and flocks in the region.

3. Guidelines BMK 13-04, 450 points

Agency regulations, policy statements, medical manuals and memoranda, uniform methods and rules, and technical publications apply only generally due to technological changes and the problems they create for epidemiological inspection and surveillance activities in the area. The veterinarian uses enterprising and expedient professional abilities in establishing and recommending new and improved epidemiological inspection and surveillance activities and accompanying policies and programs to depart from ineffective ordinary disease control and eradication procedures.

4. Complexity FL 4-4, 225 points

Assignments involve the full range of epidemiological programs, policies, and procedures pertinent to the formulation, organization, and coordination of a major, national, cooperative herd and flock disease control and eradication activity in a state or area. The programs, although theoretically sound, are in a state of change due to either present, anticipated, or unexpected priorities in disease activities leading to different or new control and eradication requirements. Both immediate and long range policies and procedures require periodic reviews, field trials, and revisions to keep current. Primary responsibility is to (a) provide guidance in the development of State-Federal laws and the coordination of complex scientific activities involving the development of specific programs, policies, and procedures; and (b) recommend new disease control and eradication programs, or intensify existing policies, or recommend the termination or terminate undesirable procedures to further the objectives of disease control and eradication operations. Special Federal and State cooperative field trials are carried out concurrently with all other assignments to establish new or devise refinements of disease control and eradication concepts and methods for applicable industries.

5. Scope and Effect FL 5-4, 225 points

Chief purpose of the position is to provide program authority in epidemiological surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities to locate and eliminate the cause for the persistent incidence of herd and flock diseases in a state. The veterinarian's conclusions and recommendations concern disease trends among livestock, poultry, or other species and potential problems, uncertainties, and questions which may impact on the program, industry, and public health. The veterinarian's recommendation for a statewide epidemiological study, field trial, laboratory analysis, and general competency evaluation affects the disease surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities of other professionals and experts over farm management, livestock markets, transportation practices, and the environment.

6. Personal Contacts BMK 13-04, 60 points

Personal contacts are with staff and subject matter officials, specialists, authorities, consultants, and representatives of state, federal, or local governmental agencies, industry organizations, diagnostic laboratories, breeding associations, and public and private groups.

7. Purpose of Contacts BMK 13-04, 120 points

The purpose of the contacts is to obtain and provide epidemiological information concerning accurate and uniform detection, diagnosis, and disposition of persistent disease incidences among herds and flocks in a state or area. This includes establishing, coordinating, and recommending surveillance systems and diagnostic abilities, epidemiological studies, field trials, laboratory analyses, and general competency evaluations. The veterinarian must be skillful in soliciting immediate and long range cooperation, promoting awareness of new and improved

epidemiological techniques among professionals and other experts, and persuading difficult or uncooperative persons in controversies to apply nationally prescribed standards.

8. Physical Demands BMK 13-04, 20 points

There is prolonged standing, walking around on various kinds of farm surface conditions, and handling restrained, large, and confused animals or large heavy carcasses on rails to perform diagnostic tests or demonstrations, or to conduct gross, post mortem lesion examinations.

9. Work Environment BMK 13-04, 50 points

There is exposure to a high incidence of disease and non-disease conditions and agents, some of which are contagious, infectious, and communicable to humans, requiring special precautions and tight safety control coordination.

2850 Total Points